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# The Friday Letter

Vol. 8 No. 12

July 8, 1988

## FNS Executives Attend Information Systems Training

Megabytes and nanoseconds were the order of the day as top agency executives attended an automated systems training conference on June 28-30 in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Held at the IBM Executive Education Center, the training featured discussions and demonstrations by IBM automation experts. Training topics included an overview of the evolution of automation within organizations, a discussion of effective techniques for evaluating contract bids for federal automated systems, and a discussion of the latest developments in electronic benefits transfer technology. IBM also gave demonstrations on expert systems, artificial intelligence, and image processing.

The following FNS leaders attended the training: Associate Administrator Sonia Crow, Regional Administrator David Alspach (MPRO), Regional Administrator Christopher Martin (MARO), Regional Administrator Monroe Woods (MWRO), Regional Administrator Harry McLean (NERO), Regional Administrator Hicks Elmore (WRO), Regional Administrator Gene Dickey (SWRO), Regional Administrator Virgil Conrad (SERO), Vernon Morgan (RO), Stan Garnett (SN), Bonny O'Neil (FS), Jack Radzikowski (FM), Christy Baine Schmidt (AE), Joseph Leo (MA), Carol Naughton (IRM), John Webster (PI), Stephen Balsam (PID). Also attending were Patricia Porter (MA) and Tom Zrubek (PE).

-Story by Tom Zrubek  
Personnel Division

## Annual Public Information Directors Meeting Held in Washington, DC



(The following story was written by Gene Vincent and published in the July issue of the Ag Reporter.)

The FNS regional information directors came to town for an annual series of meetings. We talk on the phone now and then but when the representative parts get together, it is easier to see the big communication picture.

Beginning from the stern, rockbound coast of Maine where daylight first strikes the continental U.S. and New England, there's Charles DeJulius in the Boston (Northeast Region) office. On down the East Coast is Joe Dunphy in Robbinsville, New Jersey, in the Mid-Atlantic Region where about one-quarter of the whole U.S. population lives. Then Jerry Redding, a new member, in the Capital of the New South, Atlanta, Georgia (Southeast Region), in which nearly every U.S. company has an office.

Lawrence Rudmann is the information director in the Midwest Region in Chicago. It's the hub of the Midwest,



## Public Service Dialogue Held in Boston

Coinciding with Public Service Recognition Week, six members of the National Commission on the Public Service recently traveled to Boston to hear testimony from prominent representatives of the region's business, media, academic, government and community organizations on how public career services can be strengthened.

The arena was the New England regional dialogue co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and the New England Public Employees' Roundtable.

"The value of public service as a career is getting to be a harder message to sell," said Lynda Silva, NERO Food Stamp Program director and president of the New England Public Employees' Roundtable, "but it is one the commission and several other groups, including the roundtable, are working hard to get across."

The commission is composed of 36 nationally recognized citizens from the private domain and is dedicated to strengthening the role and potential of government career services.

The commission's five areas of concern are public perceptions, recruitment and selection, compensation, political and career service relationships, and

Linda L. Boling  
Editor, Public Information Staff

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education and training. Its findings will be published in a final report and presented to the next President and Congress.

Silva said the two major areas of concern in Boston are pay/compensation and the image of public service employees. The roundtable plans to work with the media to create better public perceptions and more active discussion of issues that concern public employees.

-Story by NERO  
Public Affairs Staff

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situated on the banks of the largest freshwater lake in the world, and one of the big three cities in the USA today. Craig Forman, a former Chicagoan some years ago, is the director in Denver in the Mountain Plains Region, the most farflung region of all. Craig was carrying out a long-planned trip to London, so he was represented by Joanne Widner, senior public affairs specialist from Mountain Plains.

From down in Big-D country is Judy Snow, information director in Dallas for the Southwest U.S. Among many other activities, Southwest will be heavily involved in the American School Food Service Association annual conference in San Antonio in August. Dick Montoya has been a key player for about 20 years and the information director in the Western Regional Office for a dozen years or more. Herb Caen calls San Francisco "Baghdad by the Bay" rather whimsically, but the Golden Gate City is certainly one of the most beautiful cities in the U.S. of A. That's the lineup of seven key communication people and offices in the major population centers of the Nation. A pretty impressive information system when you think about it.

-Story by Gene Vincent  
Public Information Staff

## NERO Staff Attends Joint Personnel/EEO Conference



Beverly Hayes, NERO's new regional director of Civil Rights/EEO Programs, meets with Robert Pierce, former director, during a break at the EEO Conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Both Hayes and Pierce were recognized for their contributions to equal employment and affirmative action activities.

"Challenges and Opportunities Beyond the 1980's" was the theme of a joint conference recently held in Hyannis, Massachusetts, and attended by several NERO employees. Sponsored by the New England Federal Personnel Council, Boston Federal Executive Board, and the Classification and Compensation Society, the conference provided the opportunity to attend workshops from either the EEO or personnel tract.

The EEO agenda included workshops addressing such topics as the Rehabilitation Act, the employment of disabled persons, barriers faced by Hispanics and American Indians, family and work responsibilities, and unlearning racism.

The personnel tract dealt with the workforce of the future, trends in public service initiatives, human relations legislation, and unions.

Beverly Hayes, NERO's new regional director of Civil Rights/EEO Programs, attended the conference, and in her capacity as chairperson of the EEO Officers Council presented certificates of appreciation for outstanding service and support of federal equal employment and affirmative action activities to the members of the EEO Officers Regional Council. Hayes was also recognized for her contributions to the EEO Officers Council.

Other NERO staff attending included Janet Nolan, personnel director, Claudia Smith, chairperson of the EEO Advisory Committee, Lori Buseck, acting Federal Women's Program coordinator, and Julie Larkin, Selective Placement Program coordinator.

-Story and photo by NERO  
Public Affairs Staff

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## Food Helps Athletes Excel

The official dietitian for the Denver Broncos and the U. S. Olympic swim team told officials at the Denver National Child-Care Meeting that the four food groups they eat are better than those often ingested by rookie athletes.

Sports dietitian Jackie Berning said rookies don't know if they'll make the team, and most live in hotels or low-cost housing hoping to survive the cut. She said the four food groups their diet is based on are Wendy's, Pizza Hut, MacDonald's, and Burger King. In working with them, Berning said she tells the athletes they are like sports cars trying to run on diesel rather than super-unleaded fuel required for maximum performance. She takes players on instructional shopping trips to teach them about good food choices.

Berning said she finds her work with swimmers easier simply because they're

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## National Child-Care Meeting in Denver

Associate Administrator Sonia Crow and Deputy Administrator George Braley were featured speakers at a recent national meeting of state and regional office child-care staff in Denver. Status of the new adult day-care program was among the primary topics at the three-day meeting.

Braley, along with Child Nutrition Division Director Sam Bauer and Policy and Program Development Branch Chief Lou Pastura, led a lengthy discussion of USDA's effort to draft interim regulations for the adult day-care program. State staff posed a variety of questions on the new program and indicated interest in commenting on forthcoming regulations.

Other workshops included child-care computer models, audits and claims, budget strategies, administrative tips, sponsorship deficiencies, meal patterns, reviews and technical assistance, and an update on commodities. The meeting was hosted by the Colorado Department of Health with planning assistance from Mountain Plains child-care staff.



David Alspach presented a certificate of appreciation to Kathryn Brunner, administrator of the Child-Care Food Program for the Colorado Department of Health, for her work in coordinating the Denver National Child-Care Meeting.



(Left to right) Sam Bauer, Sonia Crow, George Braley, and Lou Pastura fielded questions about the new adult day-care program at the Denver Child-Care Meeting.

-Story by Joanne Widner  
Photos by Craig Forman  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

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younger. They have fewer years of bad eating habits to erase. She works with 12- to -18 year-olds, teaching them to make better food choices that result in permanent lifestyle changes. The right diet, she stressed, can be a bigger asset to a swimmer than webbed feet.

Berning is a registered dietitian who holds a B.S. in dietetics from Northern Arizona University and a M.A. in exercise physiology from the University of Northern Colorado. She is working on her doctorate in nutrition at Colorado State University. Her message is clear: At any level (recreational, amateur, or professional) an athlete can benefit from wiser food choices. Training is much the same for every team, but a proper diet can give them the competitive edge.

-Story by Joanne Widner  
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

## Yes, There is a Free Ride, and There was a Free Lunch

Recent "Metro Day" festivities at Park Center signalled the beginning of an ambitious program by the property management office to help commuters.

Employees who signed up for door prizes received a "Passport to Convenient Commuting" information kit and a bag lunch, while a jazzy pop band played transportation greats ("I Get Around," "Freeway of Love," etc.). A few brave souls boogied under the record 101-degree sun, while "I Get Around" T-shirt-clad attendants explained the following options:

- People currently paying for parking spaces can turn their stickers and magnetic cards in for a perpetually renewed flashpass (good for unlimited bus travel in Virginia, Maryland, and the District for a two-week period). Each flashpass also has \$5.50 in Metro fare on it. As each pass expires, the next one is free.

- Newly registered car and vanpools will receive a free parking space. To FNS employees, this means that the building management has expanded carpool space beyond what was available through the parking permit system. Instead of registering with Administrative Services Division, pools of three or more employees can go directly to the building management for a parking space.

- Employees already riding buses can buy flashpasses at a discount in the management office (the Virginia/Maryland/District pass, worth \$21, costs \$16). The building management now subsidizes three new bus runs a day to and from the Pentagon. Expanded service began on June 27.

The new transportation program has its roots in a requirement by the City of Alexandria, while Park Center was being planned, that the new complex make an effort to ease the burden of commuters.

Metro Day offered other attractions as well. A mobile Metro sales office was on hand to dispense bus schedules and sell the new bus/Metro maps. VSPI (a nationwide vanpool organizer) displayed a typical van and described its services.

Also present was the Alexandria Ridesharing Service, which maintains a list of active and hopeful carpoolers. Applicants fill out a form detailing their starting points, destinations, and other requirements, and receive names of possible matches.

The information kit that was distributed contains a schedule of POC/Pentagon bus service, a pocket guide to Metro, and a ridesharing service application form. Employees wishing a kit or other information about the program can obtain it at the management office, "P" level in the corridor between 3101 Park Center Drive and 4401 Ford Avenue, or can call 578-4774.

-Story by Chris Kocsis  
Public Information Staff





## Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the vacant positions listed below. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Application for Federal Employment, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you are interested in a headquarters position, apply to the Operations Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexandria, Virginia

22302. Apply directly to headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For regional positions, apply directly to the regional office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or copies can be obtained from the appropriate regional or headquarters personnel office.

### Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk Stay in Schooler	(A)	GW-303	1/2	Open	88-SIS	FNS
o Clerk Typist	(A)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until Filled	NONE	FNS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open	88-999	FNS
o Pers Mgmt Spec	(A)	GM-201	12/13	7/11/88	88-48	PED
o Sec (Typ)	(A)	GS-318	3/4/5	7/26/88	88-54	PDD
o Mgmt Analyst	(FNS)	GS-343	12/13	7/20/88	88-56	PED
o Food Prog Spec	(L)	GS-120	11/12	7/26/88	88-51A	SFPD
o Food Prog Spec	(G)	GS-120	11/12	7/26/88	88-51	SFPD
o Contract Spec	(G)	GS-1102	5/7	7/26/88	88-52	ASD
o Supvry Prog Anal	(FNS)	GM-345	14	7/26/88	88-53	OAE
o Empl Devel Spec	(G)	GS-235	12	7/26/88	88-55	PED

#### Office Location

FNS	- Food and Nutrition Service
SFPD	- Supplemental Food Programs Division
PED	- Personnel Division
HNIS	- Human Nutrition Information Service
ASD	- Administrative Services Division
OAE	- Office of Analysis and Evaluation
PDD	- Program Development Division

#### Area of Consideration

(A)	- All Sources
(G)	- Government-wide
(L)	- Local Commuting Area Only
(FNS)	- Food and Nutrition Service